

A CASE STUDY

Environmental auditing as a tool for evaluating solid waste management of a private group of institutions

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ABSTRACT

In recent years universities and colleges are approving environmentally sound course curriculum format by stressing the need for campus environmental audit programme. The main focus of the programme is their resource consumption and the need for improving campus environment on sustainable basis. Environmental auditing is a periodic, documented and systematic approach in the management of waste. Rusty Callier of the University of Wisconsin River-Falls defines a campus environmental audit as “a way to judge where resources are being used efficiently and where they are being used inefficiently”. Solid waste management is the collection, transport, processing, recycling or disposal, and monitoring of waste materials <http://en.wikipedia.org> The data collected for waste generation and study of various waste disposal mechanisms, collection and treatment helps us to have an approach for waste minimization and reduction.

Key Words : Environmental auditing, Solid waste management, Disposal mechanisms, Group of Institutions

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It is evident from the history of waste management and various case studies that before industrial revolution all the cities were having low population densities and thereafter the whole scenario changed by the large scale migration of people from rural areas to urban areas.

Solid waste management is not a new concept. Waste has played a tremendous role in history. Civilizations belonging to different countries in different eras used to invent and adopt various methods or technologies to dispose of the unwanted heaps of materials lying outside the cities, for example, The Maya civilization of Central America had dumps, which exploded occasionally and burned (<http://en.wikipedia.org>) those heaps of waste. Homemakers brought trash to local dumps, and monthly burnings would occur (<http://en.wikipedia.org>)

Background:

Even nowadays management of waste is a big issue since

it holds value for a disease free society and a clean environment. The waste coming out of factories, industries, agricultural farms, hospitals, and nursing homes, domestic and municipal waste is categorized on the basis of the source generation and the management and disposal of such waste has taken a systematic, periodic and well documented monitoring. The definition of environmental auditing adopted by International Chamber of Commerce is as follows: 'A management tool comprising a systematic, documented, periodic and objective evaluation of how well environmental organization, management systems and equipment are performing with the aim of facilitating management control of environmental practices and compliance with the company policies including meeting regulatory requirements.' Environmental auditing is a part of planning process of environmental management system of any organization. Environmental pollution is studied by analyzing the pollutant level of various types viz., air pollution, water pollution, noise

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